HISTORY

OF

ROME CHARGE

Beech Creek Church
Mount Pleasant Church
Prospect Church
Silver Creek Church
HISTORY OF PROSPECT METHODIST CHURCH

The History of Prospect Methodist Church has been a long and difficult one. With the first official record was found on the tomb stone of Dr. Jess G. Carr. Born December 27, 1804, died December 21, 1884 a member of Prospect Methodist Church for 45 years; he united with the church in 1835. Which would make the Prospect Methodist Church 148 years old.

The early settlers of the Prospect community were Indians, French, Irish and Dutch. About the year 1849-50 they planned to build a church as they felt a need of a place to worship God.

The first Prospect Methodist was built just off of Georgia Highway 20 West going from Rome, Georgia to Cedar Bluff, Alabama. The people built a church and used it until a few years after the Civil War. The Northern wanted to run the church, but the Southern Methodist were the stronger in number and would not let the Northern have control of the church. So to settle the dispute a Mr. Elrod burned the church. They then built an arbor.

After a time the Southern Methodist decided to build another Methodist church and it was built back of the one now standing. It was once a Camp Ground. People would prepare generous baskets of food and go in carriages, ox-carts and on foot, to camp for weeks at a time, sewing for the Confederate Army and worshipping God. They had their prayer meetings on the week ends, Saturday and Sunday and would go into the woods to pray.

Among the first records that we have are the deed to the property where the church now stands. The deeds were made on the Twenty-first day of October in the year 1851.

As we said in the early days of the church, most of the people were Cherokee Indians. In 1861 when the Civil War started Colonel Hart organized his command for the Confederate Army and trained on the site where the church now stands. It was told they had no guns or fighting material and had to use whatever they had. They served the rest of the War as the
"Georgia Sixth Calvary". Some never returned home but there are still some of the 7th. generation of these early settlers still living in the area, some still belong and working in the Prospect Methodist Church.

About 1880, the present church was built and the old one was used for a school house, until it burned around 1890. Then school was held in the present Prospect church until a new school was built across the old stage coach road in front of the church. Then moved to Fairview Consolidated school and now Coosa in the year 1928.

The church heat was a pot-belly stove sitting in center of the church. One Sunday morning we gathered for church, the fire was left the Sunday before in the stove and the ceiling had caught fire burnt out around the stove pipes. The pipes and burnt debris was on the floor and had gone out. It was at this time gas was installed.

In 1969 with a large group of young people attending church a need for a recreation building was felt. So the project began selling candy, having dinners, etc, finally enough money in hand and the people of the church doing the work it was completed. The Prospect Homemaker Club ladies ask permission for use of the building for their meetings, and for thanks, they bought and painted the inside of the building also purchased and made drapes for windows, and installed the light fixtures.

Year 1979 we felt a need to close off the two doors into the church and make a stoop with double doors. From their to make our church more convenient lowered the ceiling, made three Sunday school rooms, in the large auditorium and installed a bath room.

To help heat the church 1983 we panelled sheet rocked the auditorium and painted the inside and outside to preserve it.

So here we are the year 1983 the people of this little community have keep the small church alive. Where still if you want to wear to church overalls or long dress and bonnett just as welcome as several hundred dollar
outfit. And still in very much need of our church as in the year 1849-50.

At present we do not have all the records of Pastors serving the Prospect Church. On record it shows the following Presiding Elders and District Superintendents names dating from the year 1902 through 1983. Also have the record of the following Pastors names who served from the year 1856 through 1983.

Presiding-Elders and District Superintendents:
E. Holland 1939, W. H. LaPrade 1940, 1941, B. Frank Pim 1942, 1943, 1944,
1945, 1946, 1947, Wills M. Jones 1948, 1949, Dalma R. Hargood 1950, 1951,
J, Hemby Barton, Park Segars, Demus Shelnutt, Marion Sherrill, Hubert Flanagan
Rudy Baker, Jr.

Pastors:
Bob Cobb 1857, W. F. Powel 1869, W. W. Branswell 1883, J. C. Brown 1884,
P. McCollough 1885, W. Sampler 1886, D. C. Brown 1887, H. I. Edmondson 1888,
Ellis 1889, W. M. Austin 1890, 1891, 1892, S. A. Harris 1893, H. O. Brand 1894
G. C. Harris 1895, N. A. Parson 1896, J. H. Little 1897, J. H. Chamber 1898,
N. A. Parson 1899, T. L. Bryson 1900, 1901, W. A. Simmons 1902, 1903, 1904,
1905, J. W. Gaber 1906, 1907, F. W. McCleskey 1908, G. C. Harris 1909,
J. E. Rorie 1910, R. A. Cliett 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, W. T. Ervine 1915,
G. L. Harris 1916, N. A. Parson 1917, 1918, L. H. Green 1919, T. L. Brison
1920, 1921, O. A. Baggley 1922, W. H. Spear 1923, 1924, Charlie Drake 1925,
O. P. McDermont 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, Forrest Slater 1930, Clyde Lee 1931,
1932, Max Whitemore 1933, W. A. Warwick 1934, 1935, W. P. Hughes 1936, T. L.
Rutland 1937, 1938, R. N. Padgett R. N. Padgett 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943,

Information gathered by Mrs Annie Ruth (A.T.) Wright 11-26-83.